Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00151 241442Z POSS DUPE ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 DHA-02 /018 W $\,$

-----241642Z 022800/53

R 241400Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8804 INFO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC, MA (LAPPEMAN, EDMOND H.) SUBJECT: ARREST: E.H. LAPPEMAN

REF: TANANARIVE 0139

- 1. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS NOT GRANTED ACCESS TO LAPPEMAN WHO HAS BEEN UNDER DETENTION SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN MADAGASCAR JANUARY 18. MFA, FROM WHICH WE HAVE SOUGHT ASSISTANCE, APPARENTLY POWERLESS TO INTERVENE ON EMBASSY'S BEHALF. EMBASSY PLANS TO SEND NOTE TO MFA PROTESTING ACTION OF GDRM, CITING CONSULAR ACCESS PROVISIONS OF VIENNA CONVENTION, TO WHICH GDRM IS SIGNATORY.
- 2. LAPPEMAN'S CASE IS NOT FIRST IN WHICH CONSULAR ACCESS HAS BEEN DENIED. MOREOVER, WHEN AMCITS HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY MALAGASY AUTHORITIES IN PAST, EMBASSY WAS NEVER OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF THEIR DETENTION. THIS FAILURE OF GDRM TO COMPLY WITH VIENNA CONVENTION WAS OFFICIALLY PROTESTED BY EMBASSY IN SEPT 1976
- 3. THIS CASE HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE LOCAL PRESS PLAY, AS GDRM AUTHORITIES HIGHLIGHT SOUTH AFRICAN VIOLATION OF MADAGASCAR'S AIRSPACE. MFA OFFICIAL NOTED TO CHARGE JAN 24 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR GDRM TO GRANT LANDING RIGHTS TO SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT BECAUSE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DO NOT EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. (THIS IGNORES FACT THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISTS OCCASIONALLY STOPOVER IN MADAGASCAR AND THAT AN AIR MADAGASCAR AIRCRAFT IS USED FOR AIR MAURITIUS' ONCE-WEEKLY FLIGHT TO JOHANNESBURG.) APPARENTLY, GDRM IS ATTEMPTING TO MAKE POLITICAL

MILEAGE, DOMESTICALLY ADN ABROAD, OF FLAGRANT SOUTH AFRICAN VIOLATION OF MALAGASY SOVEREIGNTY. SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALISTS HAVE MADE SEVERAL PHONE CALLS TO EMBOFFS ASKING FOR INFO ABOUT CASE, BUT ASIDE FROM OUR INABILITY TO SEE LAPPEMAN, WE KNOW NO MORE ABOUT CASE THAN WHAT WE READ IN PAPERS.SHEINBAUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am

Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TANANA00151
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770025-0344

Format: TEL From: TANANARIVE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770123/aaaaauah.tel

Line Count: 68 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 350b2bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION SCS

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 TANANARIVE 139

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 27-Jun-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3517406 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ARREST: E.H. LAPPEMAN

TAGS: CASC, MA, (LAPPEMAN, EDMOND H)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/350b2bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009